

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the subject application. The final Office Action of September 24, 2003 has been received and contents carefully reviewed.

By this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 1, 11, 19 and 25, and cancel claims 3, 13 and 22 without disclaiming the underlying subject matters. Accordingly, claims 1-2, 4-12, 14-21 and 23-31 are currently pending in the present application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 1, 19 and 25 because of informalities. Applicants submit that the objections are now believed to be moot in view of the claim amendments. Applicants again appreciate the Examiner's thorough review.

In addition, the Examiner rejected claims 1-10 and 19-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyazaki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,038,009) in view of Yamazaki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,566,009); rejected claims 11 and 14-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyazaki et al. in view of Yamazaki et al. and as evidenced by Wolf and Tauber; rejected claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyazaki et al. in view of Yamazaki et al. as applied to claim 11, further in view of Lee et al.; rejected claim 13 and 30-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyazaki et al. in view of Yamazaki et al. as applied to claim 11, further in view of H. Furue et al. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

The rejection of claims 1-10 and 19-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyazaki et al. in view of Yamazaki et al. is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claim 1 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 1 recites a combination of elements including, for example, "a ferroelectric liquid crystal uniformly aligned with an application of a direct current voltage between the upper and lower substrates, the ferroelectric liquid crystal having a small amount of photo crosslinkable or light-hardening polymer to form a polymer network...." None of the cited references, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 and claims 2-10 and 29, which depend therefrom, are allowable over the cited references.

In the Office Action on page 9, the Examiner states, “H. Furue et al. teach the curing of a monomer mixed with a ferroelectric liquid crystal by simultaneously, applying ultraviolet light and a voltage of 4 volts (see Experiment section).” However, Applicants respectfully submit that a direct current is applied to the upper and lower substrates to uniformly align the ferroelectric liquid crystal in the instant application, as recited in claim 1.

Claim 19 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 19 recites a combination of elements including, for example, “a ferroelectric liquid crystal uniformly aligned with an application of a direct current-voltage between the upper and lower substrates, the ferroelectric liquid crystal having a photo crosslinkable or light-hardening polymer to form a polymer network...” None of the cited references, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 19, and claims 20-28, which depend therefrom, are allowable over the cited references.

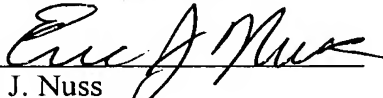
The rejection of claims 11 and 14-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyazaki et al. in view of Yamazaki et al. and as evidenced by Wolf and Tauber is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claim 11 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 11 recites a combination of elements including, for example, “uniformly aligning the ferroelectric liquid crystal by applying a direct current voltage to the electrodes of the upper and lower substrates...” None of the cited references, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submits that claim 11 and claims 14-18, which depend therefrom, are allowable over the cited references. In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that since Lee et al. and H. Furue et al., either singly or in combination, fail to cure the deficiencies of the primary references Miyazaki et al. and Yamazaki et al., claims 12, 13, 30 and 31 are also allowable.

Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner deems that a telephone conference would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number (202) 496 - 7500. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

Dated: December 19, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

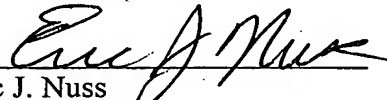
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